

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst bed comprising a physical mixture of catalytically active and catalytically inactive shaped bodies, wherein the catalytically inactive shaped bodies ~~have rounded edges on the external rubbing surfaces~~ are hollow cylinders or annular pellets having rounded edges on the external rubbing surfaces, with the radius of curvature of the end faces being from 0.01 to 0.5 times the external diameter, and the catalytically active shaped bodies are not spheres.

Claim 2 (Original): A catalyst bed comprising a physical mixture of catalytically active and catalytically inactive shaped bodies according to claim 1, wherein the catalytically active shaped bodies have rounded edges on the external rubbing surfaces.

Claim 3 (Original): A method of producing catalyst beds from catalytically active and catalytically inactive shaped bodies, wherein hollow cylinders or annular pellets having rounded edges on the external rubbing surfaces, with radius of curvature of the end faces being from 0.01 to 0.5 times the external diameter, are used as catalytically inactive shaped bodies, and the catalytically active shaped bodies are not spheres.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the catalyst beds~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst beds are used in heterogeneously catalyzed fixed-bed processes.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the catalyst beds~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst beds are used in exothermic gas-phase processes.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~use of the catalyst beds~~ method according to claim 3, wherein the catalyst beds are used in processes for the oxychlorination of ethylene to ethylene dichloride, in the oxidation of hydrogen chloride to chlorine (~~Deacon process~~), in the oxidation of methanol to formaldehyde (~~Formox® process~~), in the oxidation of o-xylene or naphthalene to phthalic anhydride, the oxidation of ethene to ethylene oxide, the oxidation of butane, butenes, butadiene or benzene to maleic anhydride or the oxidation of propane or propene to acrolein or acrylic acid.